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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/352,194	07/13/1999	SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI	0756-1998	1911

22204 7590 02/26/2002

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EXAMINER

TOLEDO, FERNANDO L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2823

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/352,194

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Fernando Toledo

Art Unit

2823

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 29 January 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY** [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☒ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attached ADVISORY ACTION.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

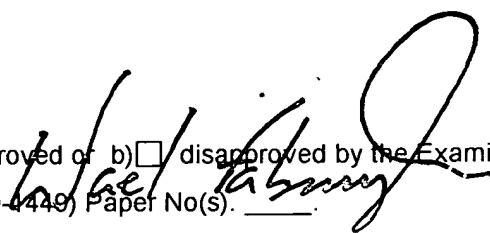
Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim(s) rejected: 5 and 36-54.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-4449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
10. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

  
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**ADVISORY ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 1/29/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the foregoing reasons.

2. Applicant contests that Zhang (U. S. patent 5,569,610) in view of Takemura (U. S. patent 5,616,506) does not teach laser annealing for crystallization in air or in an atmosphere containing oxygen.

However, Examiner respectfully submits that there is no evidence in the above-mentioned reference that the laser crystallization is done in the absent of air. One of ordinary skill in the art would have crystallized the amorphous silicon in an atmosphere with air since a conventional laser crystallization process is done in an atmosphere with air.

3. Applicant also contests that HCl is not a reducing atmosphere but an oxidizing atmosphere.

Examiner respectfully submits that HCl in vapor possesses  $H^+$  ion as well as  $Cl^-$  ions, also HCl is a very strong acid that dissociates quickly to produce the aforementioned ions. Halogen as well as hydrogen ions are commonly used in general chemistry reducing agents.

Therefore, an HCl atmosphere can be interpreted as a reducing atmosphere.

4. Applicant contests that Zhang ('857) does not teach an environment of 10ppm or less.

However, Zhang ('857) teaches a vacuum environment which inherently contains no oxygen concentration.

Therefore, Zhang ('857) teaches the aforementioned limitation of an environment of oxygen 10ppm *or less* (emphasis added).

**Conclusion**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fernando Toledo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (703) 308-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

	Fernando Toledo Patent Examiner Art Unit 2823
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ft  
February 11, 2002